

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Fun Times Are Coming

The summer seems to have been a mix of rain ...LOTS of rain, heat and humidity, and afternoon thunderstorms that send us into the shack to disconnect antennas and ground everything. Oh, and did I mention that for a lot of the time the propagation hasn't been great? Well, have no fear, there are some events on the horizon to pull us out of the summer slump. ...and who knows, maybe the propagation will pick up too.

The Shelby Hamfest is coming up on August 31 & September 1, and it's moving back to its previous home at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. You can get all the details and order your tickets at <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>. So make your list of "gotta have" items, and don't forget to reprogram your car's GPS to take you to the new ...or make that the old ...location.

SEDCO is coming 27 and 28 September to luverly Pigeon Forge, TN. As the W4DXCC website says "...this DX and Contest Convention is like no other. We have great presenters, great location for the family, access to equipment manufacturers, complimentary snacks and drinks, and good friendly fellowship." Check out [SEDCO Reservations](#) for sign-up information.

N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

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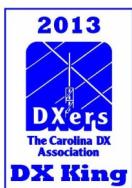
The annual Ten-Tec Hamfest is right down the road from SEDCO, and is also on the 27th and 28th. You can catch up on all the latest in DXing and contesting at SEDCO, and find the perfect boat anchor and take a factory tour at Ten-Tec all in one trip.

The 2013 CDXA BBQ is also on the horizon. It's coming up on Saturday Oct 12th. Put it on your calendar, and program your GPS for the QTH of Bob Burton, N4PQX, and his wife Wanda, KF4DDP, 10420 Country Ln., Charlotte. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the website in a few weeks. Start thinking now about whether you want to bring a salad or dessert ...or both.

Last, but not least for you CW operators, **The CW Open**, sponsored by the CW Operators' Club is coming up soon, on August 31. The complete information is at <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html> . Anybody want to register for a team?

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdfa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 3 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the scores for the 2013 DX King competition I have as of July 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	264	40	304
K7BV	Unlimited	263	40	303
W4HG	Unlimited	259	40	299
K4GHS	Unlimited	233	40	273
W3GQ	Unlimited	233	39	272
W3ZL	Formula	184	34	218
K2SX	Unlimited	177	40	217
K4NC	Unlimited	177	38	215
AA4SC	Unlimited	166	35	201
NV4A	Unlimited	143	35	178
W3OA	Unlimited	138	38	176
K1MIJ	Unlimited	130	33	163
N2TU	Unlimited	128	32	160
NK0S	Unlimited	116	37	153
K4DXA	Unlimited	114	31	145



N4PQX	Unlimited	105	40	145
W4WNT	Formula	114	26	140
W1AJT	Unlimited	103	33	136
W4CWA	Unlimited	104	31	135
W4UFO	Unlimited	104	28	132
KZ2I	Unlimited	91	24	115

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

CDXAers In CQ

The July issue of *CQ Magazine* featured a couple of CDXAers.

CQ announced this year's inductees into the DX Halls of Fame, (on Page 46) which *CQ* says "...honor the 'heroes' of our hobby ...people whose contributions to the art, science, and sport of amateur radio put them on a pedestal as examples to the rest of us." We were happy to announce on the CDXA website that one of the two inductees into the CQ DX Hall of Fame is Gary Dixon, K4MQG. *CQ* mentions that Gary was a founding member of CDXA, and was the Founding (...and current) president of IN-DEXA. Many of his other accomplishments are listed as well, including his #1 DXCC Honor Roll spot, his 10-band DXCC, 10-band WAS, and 5-band WAZ, the second ever achieved, and the first in North America. Also mentioned is Gary's friendship with the late King Hussein of Jordan, JY1. Congratulations from all of your fellow CDXAers Gary!



The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through the CDXA website, to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jew53@cornell.edu.

In an article entitled *Ham Radio in Prime Time*, John Amodeo, NN6JA, who's the producer of the TV show "Last Man Standing", discusses the fact that ham radio was a central feature of an episode of the show which aired earlier this year, on March 15. (The episode was mentioned in the [May Pileup](#).) It's an interesting article, and the author gives thanks to several folks, including Dennis, K7BV. (One of the characters uses a Yaesu FT-817ND while on vacation along the Amazon in Brazil. He's 59 into Colorado. Not bad for 5 watts.)

CDXA Scores in 2013 ARRL International DX CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX CW contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA members who contributed to CDXA's club score and scored in the top half of their class. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area.

We hope to have the results of the ARRL phone contest in next month's Pileup. At that time we should also know how we did in the Affiliated Club Competition.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4R	576,870	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	1/12
K2SX	2,517,564	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	2/86
K4NC	476,250	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power	2/12
K5EK	2,577,198	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	1/86
K7BV	1,363,857	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	6/19
KS4S	282,240	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	5/12
KY4P	95,631	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power	3/5
W3GQ	1,979,640	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	3/19
W3OA	1,528,326	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	4/19
W3ZL	331,980	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	4/12
W4CWA	240,465	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	6/12
W4ZV	83,808	US/VE	Single Op, Single Band - 160	1/24
W7WZ	342,720	South Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	1/2

New Member

CDXA welcomes Robert Teague, WA4RT. Robert lives at 5100 Sharon Rd., Cottage 103, Charlotte, NC 28210. His phone # is 704-571-7103, and email is wa4rt@yahoo.com.

The National Electric Code and Ham Radio

As many of you probably saw, Bill, K4IZE, posted some information from the newest (2011) version of the National Electric Code (NEC[®]) on the CDXA Reflector about a section of the code which, for the first time, deals with antennas, antenna feed lines, and grounding of ham stations. Wilson, K1MIJ, added some links to sites which also discuss the same issues, including a slide presentation by Tim Kuhlman, KD7RUS, entitled "[Applying the NEC[®] to Amateur Radio](#)".

Bill is very familiar with the code, and has provided a short summary below of what it means to us. Bill also points out that it would be helpful for the ARRL to participate in the committees that write and submit input to the code. There are apparently no hams on these committees now. It's possible, and easy, to actually form a committee and apply to the National Fire Protection Association, which publishes the code, as a contributor. To read the code for yourself, go to [National Electric Code](#) for a PDF version. The pertinent information is in chapter 800, Article 810. Whatever you may think of what the code has to say, it gives us some things to keep in mind when we're planning any new installations, and

Conductor Material	Less than 150 ft.	Over 150 ft.	
Hard-drawn Copper	14AWG	10AWG	it's certainly worth having a good look at our grounding systems relative to the code requirements. The chart shows the minimum conductor sizes for antennas <i>and</i> open-wire lead-ins, but not including coax.
Bronze, or other high-strength materials	14AWG	12AWG	

Some of the other important points include:

- All ground wire and jumpers must be 10 AWG or 2-0 (...there seems to be some ambiguity here.)
- All grounds must be interconnected, including tower, lead-ins, coax, protectors, CATV, power and all other utilities. Minimum wire is at least 10AWG (or 2-0?)
- Coax must be 2' above your roof if it runs across it.

We will add more on this important topic as it becomes available.

The Wayback Machine

10 Years Ago in the Pileup

The front page article by K8YC dealt with the serious threat of Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL) to amateur radio. John, as usual, described the issues and the threats well. He included a plea to CDXA members to make their concerns known to the FCC. (*As we all know, BPL is an issue still very much with us, with the FCC denying the ARRL's most recent Petition this past April ...ed.*)

There was an announcement that Joe Blackwell, AA4NN was going to address the CDXA on his recent "Double Jump" DXpedition to Botswana and Lesotho. The presentation was to be given after a steak dinner at John's Family Restaurant in Charlotte.

The *Pileup* reported on some little known awards, as reported on the AC6V website which might help in covering any bare spots on the shack walls, including:

WAN: Worked All Neighbors

WAS: Worked all Streets (...not States)

RAGD: Raised All Garage Doors

BAL: Bored All Listeners

WATL: Worked All Touch Lamps

WACO: Worked All Club Officers.

20 Years Ago in the Pileup

Food seemed on the mind of the *Pileup* editor. The Wednesday luncheons were a topic of discussion. They were still being held at Shoney's on Independence Ave. The Fall BBQ, which was to be held at the (then) QTH of Joe Barkley, was announced. There was also a recap of the after-dinner talk given at the Branding Iron by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on the Howland Island DXpedition of which he was a participant.

(cont. from page 4)

A Little Farther Back

With the upcoming 100th anniversary of the ARRL next year, I was looking through some old QSTs. This is from the first issue of QST, published in December 1915:

I notice that they didn't accept Paypal or even credit cards.

CUT OFF ON THIS LINE

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

American Radio Relay League
Hartford, Conn.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find 25c (stamps, currency, check or money order); kindly send me January, February and March numbers of Q S T.

Name

Street and No.

Town and State

Perseids Meteor Shower Rocks 2 Meters



I confess that I didn't even see any meteors during the recent Perseids shower, but the following is excerpted from a very interesting email from Doug

Allen, K4LY, sent on Aug. 12th. Doug says:

"Today operated my 52nd consecutive Perseids meteor shower on 2M. Operated as K1UGQ, Biddeford Pool, Maine, in 1962 using a Clegg Zeus, Clegg Interceptor, and 11el Cushcraft. Jack, W8PT, wrote me from Michigan. I received his letter on the 18th, well after the peak of the Perseids. He needed Maine for state number 40! We ran hour long CW skeds the 19th and 20th, finding each other's frequency, but no contact. In 1963, during the next Perseids, I worked my first meteor scatter contact, K9UWA on the 11th, followed by W8PT and a couple others and have operated 2M meteor scatter every Perseids since, having made hundreds of MS contacts. Like others, I switched to SSB beginning late 1960's and WSJT after it was released."

This year I decided to go back to SSB and just now worked W8MIL and VE2DFO on 144.210 this morning with a narrow miss with VA3ELE/M who was running 140 W to a halo."

It Was the Best of Scores ...It Was the Worst of Scores

Bill F., W4GRW, is fond of saying something to the effect that winning a VHF contest can often be a matter of picking the right band and category at the right time, and then throwing in a little luck. Maybe that applies to HF contests too.

I told of the bad luck the team of WW4CP and NV4A had operating as PJ7/WW4CP in the 2012 CQWW Phone Contest ([Nov. 2012 Pileup](#)). As I reported then, since no other station seemed to be on the air from PJ7, we were #1. Only because we wanted to make sure the few folks we did contact got credit for the Q's, I turned in the log. Imagine our surprise when Chris received this certificate (shown very, very small for good reason) declaring our #1 status in PJ7. Thank goodness it doesn't mention that we were also dead last in all multi-op single transmitter entries in North America!



The Back Page

- There are plenty of activities coming up to help us get out of the summer doldrums. Have a look at Page 1.
- The DX King race is getting tight, as usual. Look on Page 2 to see who's on top .
- Also on Page 2, read about CDXA members in *CQ Magazine*.. The really big news here, as also reported on the CDXA website, is that Gary Dixon, K4MQG, is one of the two inductees this year into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Gary.
- CDXA scores in the 2013 ARRL International DX CW Contest are shown on Page 4.
- On Page 4, The Wayback Machine provides a glimpse of what was going on 10 and 20 years ago in CDXA, and looks much farther back, to the dawn of QST.
- Speaking of history, Doug Allen, K4LY, recaps his 52 year history working 2 meters during Perseid meteor showers. Check it out on page 5.
- We'll be back next month with a look at the fine art of QSLing, and a trip to the new W4 QSL Bureau..

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.